REMARKS

The present application is a U.S. National Phase of a PCT patent application. The specification and the abstract have been amended to comply with formal requirements for U.S. patent applications. Claims 1-16 remain in the application. For better readability and the Examiner's convenience, the amended claims differ from the translated counterpart claims of the international application. The claims have also been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

It is believed that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art.

Accordingly, after the Examiner completes a thorough examination and finds the claims patentable, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

Should the Examiner determine any minor informalities that need to be addressed, he/she is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

McCracken and Franck Attorneys at Law

Bv:

J. William Frank, III Reg. No. 25,626

Date: June 24, 2004

200 W. Adams Suite 2150 Chicago, IL 60606

Telephone: (312) 263-4700 Facsimile: (312) 263-3990

Customer No. 29471